

canceled game, according to the U.S. Conference of Mayors. This means that the strike has already cost our economy some \$2 billion. We must not forget that it isn't just the owners and players who are losing money in this dispute—we are all losing, one way or another.

The many bills that have been introduced demonstrate the wide ideological and geographic extent of the interest in dealing with the baseball crisis. But the complete or partial repeal of the antitrust exemption is too simplistic an answer and will not get to the nub of the problem, which is to protect fans, taxpayers, and communities. My proposal offers a broader alternative. Under my bill, we will have the equivalent of compulsory arbitration to resolve the short-term problems and get major league baseball on the fields once again, followed by an in-depth study of how we can best organize baseball at all levels under conditions that provide future stability for all concerned: players, owners, fans, communities and taxpayers throughout the United States.

I think this is good legislation and sound public policy. I do not expect baseball owners to support my proposal; I do not expect major league players to support it; but I do hope that fans and taxpayers across America will support it, for it is the only proposal designed first and foremost for baseball fans and taxpayers. I urge the Congress to consider this legislation at the earliest opportunity.

BOYS CHOIR OF HARLEM: DOING IT RIGHT FOR 25 YEARS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention and to the attention of my colleagues here in the House, a group of young men who have been doing it right for the past 25 years.

An outstanding article which appeared in the Daily News, December 11, 1994, speaks of the choir's humble beginnings to the celebrated musical success they take pride in today.

Please enjoy.

QUITE A CHOIR

(By Sharline Chiang)

"Guys, it's pianissimo," the burly choir director bellowed. Then, clapping twice, he ordered: "Don't half do it. It must be right!"

Doing it right. That's what the Boys Choir of Harlem has been specializing in for the past 25 years.

It hasn't always been easy.

"It's been a long process of convincing people—classical purists—that we were real," said Walter Turnbull, choir founder and director.

Evidence of real musicianship and diversity can be found on the choir's first solo album, "The Sound of Hope," which celebrates the group's silver anniversary.

The album, released in October by EastWest Records America, offers everything from pop and R&B to jazz and gospel.

In 25 years, the choir has been turned from a group of rambunctious boys in the basement of Ephesus Church in Central Harlem to a major international attraction.

In 1987, the Choir Academy of Harlem, a satellite of Community School District 5, was born. Today, the academy teaches youngsters ages 8 to 18 and offers a Regents high school program.

More than a year ago the academy moved from a smaller building in Harlem to its first permanent home—the former Intermediate School 201 building at Madison Ave. and 127th St.

Aside from proving itself to critics, keeping the school financially stable through the years has been a challenge, Turnbull said.

Performances for royalty and Presidents alone don't cover the costs of tutors, pianos and more than 100 worldwide tours each year. Ticket revenues cover only half its \$2.7 million budget.

Despite generous patrons, cutbacks in city and corporate funding have made some tours impossible.

Nevertheless, as funding shrinks, the number of young people who audition continues to grow. Last year 2,000 hopefuls tried out for 200 seats in music, dance and drama.

The school's population also is growing. Six years ago the choir reinstituted its program for girls. Now the choir consists of 300 students.

The 35 to 40 boys who make up the touring choir are chosen from the 150-member concert choir on a rotating basis.

Although more than 90% of the students go on to college, Turnbull said, not everyone reaches graduation day. He loses some students to the lure of the streets.

"It's hard," the director said. "Some you can't reach."

But for many, like 12-year-old Nilelijah Scott, the Boys Choir of Harlem is a sanctuary, a place to get into music and off the streets.

"Instead of hanging out with friends and getting into trouble, I just come here after school and go to rehearsal," said Scott, a two-year veteran soprano and an aspiring accountant. "When you graduate from here, you gain a sense of self-esteem."

Osman Armstrong, 14, sings first alto. A choir member since age 9, his favorite song in the program is Haydn's "Te Deum."

"My mother loves it that I'm here because I get to travel," said Armstrong. "And I'm getting away from the city."

Some graduates, like William Byrd, return.

A Boys Choir assistant conductor and music theory teacher, Byrd, 26, graduated in 1986. After earning his computer science degree from Hunter College next spring, Byrd hopes to attend Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J.

"The school helped me home in on my ambitions and skills," Byrd said, "to become my own person."

Looking ahead, Turnbull dreams of helping others set up similar choir schools in major U.S. cities. Music teachers from Houston and Detroit have expressed interest.

But for now, creating an endowment through fund-raising and corporate projects is the Boys Choir's main goal, Turnbull said.

He said an endowment will allow the Boys Choir of Harlem to celebrate the tradition of "doing it right" for another 25 years.

"It's not just about the choir, it's about discipline," he said. "It's about feeling good about yourself—that's hope."

PROPOSING A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 27, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 1) proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States:

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Chairman, a balanced budget is the best way to ensure the future economic prosperity of the United States. It is a long-term solution to a long-term problem. Congress, over the past 40 years, has been full of big spenders who couldn't restrain their proclivity to spend. A balanced budget limits the powers of Government and brings stability to the budget-making process.

Deficits are not a short-term trend. The Federal Government has run a deficit for 56 of the last 64 years, and the last 24 years in a row. Congress has tried to change its free-spending ways, but countless budget deals have done very little. In the 1920's, Federal spending as a percentage of GNP was 3 percent; in 1940 it was 10 percent; and in 1992 it was 22.4 percent. Eliminating the deficit is one of the most urgent priorities facing the country. We can't begin to tackle our near \$5 trillion national debt until the Federal budget runs a surplus. And unless we begin to repay our debt soon, this country will be headed for a deep and prolonged economic crisis.

When it comes to balancing the budget, the deficit is a convenient target for election year attacks. But when it comes to getting re-elected, deficit spending is the key. Why? First, intense pressure for spending tends to override a generalized preference for fiscal restraint and balanced budgets. In the short run, deficit spending is the most painless political option and the path of least resistance. In other words, wasteful spending has a curious appeal to deficit-hostile constituents when it is in their own district. Second, intense pressure for spending tends to override the general, diffused targets of most tax increases. Tax increases are purposely spread out enough so they don't spark a Boston tea party. For Congress, it's easy to tax and easier to spend, making it almost impossible to balance the budget.

Mr. Chairman, a long-term, structural response is needed to reverse a long-term, structural problem. The solution is a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. I don't take this step lightly, but it's one that Thomas Jefferson endorsed. An amendment reestablishes a level playing field, forcing Congress to place higher priority on balancing the budget rather than spending and taxing. It restores the Constitution's goal of limited government.

Some critics of this legislation contend that it will unfairly impact Social Security. Nothing could be further from the truth. These critics say that Social Security is not part of the deficit problem. I agree completely. Social Security is soundly financed and runs a surplus